ISSN 1059-1249

THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE
Magic Lantern Society of United States and Canada

Volume 11
Number 4 Insert

WINTER 1999

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

By Bob Hall

Season's Greetings. May your season be full of joy. I wish all good things for you in the year 2000 and may you escape the *dreaded* Y2K bug.

We are sending this reprint of *The Magic Lantern* as Vol. II, No. 4, the Winter 1999 issue of the *Magic Lantern Gazette*. As you will notice, this is Vol. II, No. 1 to Vol. II, No. 12 of the original *The Magic Lantern* printed in 1876. These are courtesy of Dick Balzar and reprinted from his collection. Thanks for sharing these marvelous magazines with us, Dick!

The Society has printed two sets of these magazines from Dick's collection previously. They are Vol. I, No. 1 (September, 1874) to Vol. I, No. 8 (April, 1875) and Vol. I, No. 9 (May, 1875) to Vol. I, No. 16 (December, 1875). There are very few copies left in the Society's inventory and may be purchased for $5.00 from the Society's secretary, Ralph Shape at:

Ralph Shape
3757 So. 194th St.
Seattle, WA 98188
e-mail: rshape@compuserve.com

See you in Hollywood in June. I'll be talking to you.

Obituary:

Word has reached us from England that Marjorie Attle passed away on May 22, 1999. She and her husband, Don, have been members of our society since 1987 and 1988. Joe and Alice Koch remember them from British Society meetings many years ago as gracious people who always made them feel welcome and a part of things. Our sympathies, thoughts, and prayers are with Don and his family.

ATTENTION!

Our esteemed Vice President is seeking the names of people willing to run for Society office. The President may not seek a third term and other offices are open as well. Please do not let this be a Society where 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Get involved. Contact Homer Peabody at md10s@aol.com or 619-222-2097, 848 Rosecrans St., San Diego, CA 92106.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next Northwest Corner Meeting to be held at the home of Ralph and Judi Shape on January 16, 2000. Call 206-592-8270 for more information.

CONVENTION

June 23 thru June 25, 2000 – Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Los Angeles. Hotel reservations- (323) 466-7000 Still seeking presentors for convention. Contact Randy Haberkamp at (323) 937-0776 or Randyhaber@aol.com or Jere Guldin at (310) 445-1444

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Ralph Shape

As of November 7, 1999 we have the following new members and late renewals since the last *Gazette:*

Sue Bastian, 270 Bronxville Rd., Apt. A81, Bronxville, NY 10708
Paul Burns, 39 Thompkins Cres., Aurora, ON L4G3W7, Canada
Thomas Diosy, 400 Fishell Rd., Rush, NY 14543
Harry Elsesser, 139 Sycamore Cir., Stony Brook, NY 11790
Stuart Fabe, 3174 Portsmouth Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45208
Sheldon Golub, 4 Currier Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
John Grozik, 8249 N. Edge O'Woods Dr., Brown Deer, WI 53223
Norman Heischober, 271 Helm Ave., Bayshore, NY 11706
Stuart Kramer, 1766 Blair Loop Rd., Danville, VA 24540
Henk Boelmans Kraneburg, Scheveningseweg 241, Den Haag 2584 AA, The Netherlands
Stefaan Mulier-van buggenhout, Spaanse Burchtlaan 34, 3000 Leuven, Belgium
Henry Quade, Route 3, Box 127, Good Thunder, MN 56037
Tom Riker, 2929 Blossom St., Columbia, SC 29205
Dennis White, 1202 SE Lowell Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021

We know that at least four of our new members came to us from our Web page. Thanks, Jack Judson.

E-mail address changes:

Sharon Koch - SHARONKOCH@prodigy.net
Ron and Dorothy Easterday - OZMA@amouse.net
Joe and Alice Koch - aljokoch@gte.net

SLIDE CARRIER ARTICLE ADDENDUM

By David Evans

There appears to have been a little confusion about the pricing of slide carriers in the article in the last *Gazette*. The British in those days greatly admired arithmetic ability, and consequently our monetary system required counting in Base 12 and Base 20 rather than Base 10 as at present. The system went:

12 pence = 1 shilling
20 shillings = 1 U.K. pound

The prices I appended to many of the carriers were in shillings, e.g. 5/- represents 5 shillings (25 pence in modern terms), not 5 U.K. pounds! I apologize for not making this clearer, there's no reason why you should be expected to understand our system!

One might add that 5 shillings was about the weekly wage of a manual laborer at the time . . . and that, also at the time, the exchange rate was $4 = 1 U.K. pound. So, 5/- = $1.

A HOLIDAY SHOW

By Bob Bishop, TOPS, The Old Projectionist

Usually when one thinks of a Christmas magic lantern show, there comes to mind nativity scenes, Santa and Mrs. Claus, red nosed reindeer such as Rudolph, Santa's helpers, and stories of all kinds for the season.

Actually, not my cup of tea. In reality our diminishing collection houses little to spice up a holiday program. Oh, there remain a commercial holiday slide or two, some few New Year's slides, an image of old St. Nick, but nary a true related story to build a program around.

Sometimes I wonder if holiday programs are not particularly difficult for many lanternists. It seems, in retrospect, that some lanternists that I have known have been, despite an outward mask of geniality, very private persons—loners, if you please. I often have wondered what prods these people to give holiday shows. It surely must be more than the Ho-Ho-Ho, candy canes, and a Christmas tree.

My memory fails me as to just what year it was but bad planning, to put it mildly, had prevented us from spending Christmas Day with our grandchildren. Nearly 3,000 miles from home, the situation was bitter in our mouths. Well, we ended up doing what we had done so many times before. We turned to the lantern and used it to entertain others and in doing so affirmed an old adage, "To help yourself, reach out to others."

The state of my files and of my memory prevents me from naming the civic organization that steered us towards the Veterans hospital located between College Park and Annapolis. "It's halfway between nowhere. It is rather grim," was the word we received. We contacted the hospital and there was no hesitation in accepting our offer of appearance.

It was dusk when we arrived. Our headlights picked up flashes of precisely cut hedges and close-cut lawns. It reminded me of similar institutions such as Retzel, a Veteran's home near Port Orchard, Washington.

continued on back

On arrival, orderlies packed the lanterns and slides and other incidentals. To our surprise the large hall, which I believed also doubled as a dining room, was over half full. Nurses and aides were bringing more patients from various parts of the campus. It was obvious this holiday program would have a full house, captive or not.

As we set up, there was a buzz in the room as patients talked to one another. An air of surprise was evident. Obviously not too many special shows reached this institution. When expectation sharpens the air it usually excites all present. The three of us were not immune.

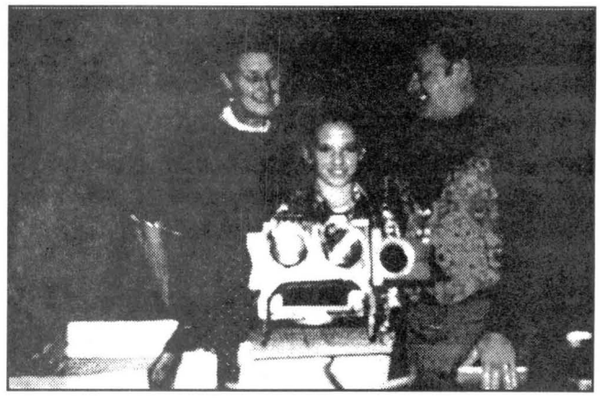
With such a good reception I was almost halfway through the program before I realized it! We had sung a few holiday songs along with some Illustrated Song Series, a song about an Enchanted Hat. Some "Coming Attraction" slides brought forth a few chuckles and suddenly the advertising slides were streaming upon the screen. And then the Elliman advertising series was under my hand. Out of nowhere appeared that slide! It almost seemed to burn my fingers. But before I could eliminate the slide, the image of a legless man in a wheelchair was on the screen. The patter goes as follows: "Eilliman would have you know, if there is a problem that has you stumped, (there was a collective gasp from the audience). The makers of Elliman's Embrocation want you to know their fine product might be just the medication for you!"

The image on the screen, of the legless man, seemed to grow sharper and larger on its own accord. I was shocked to realize how unattentive I had been. I looked around to see men on gurneys, others sitting upright strapped in chairs, people in wheelchairs, and all perhaps without exception disabled and more times than not missing arms or legs or both.

What had I done? Time seemed to stand still. What faux pas had I unintentionally committed? My voice became strained as my throat tightened up. Sweat covered my face. My hands shook and I almost dropped the succeeding slide. I was certain that coming out of my mouth was nothing but gibberish. How was I to finish the program?

The hall was deathly still. I'm sure one could hear a slide drop. A sudden movement caught my eye. "Have a sip or two of Adam's Ale, my dear." Carm, my wife, said in a voice loud enough to be picked up by the microphone. She passed me the glass.

Then the tension broke. A rolling wave of laughter engulfed us. These men, these maimed somewhat forgotten heroes of past wars, were laughing at the image. They were laughing at me in my self-made morass. They were laughing at themselves. The Adam's Ale soothed my throat. Carm nodded at me. The courage and humor of that audience would not allow me to even consider cropping the show for an earlier finish. I pressed on to complete our assignment. The hall rocked with "Good Night, Ladies." The old fellow in his nightclothes snuffed out the candle. An undulating chromotrope gradually slowed and faded away. The holiday show was over.



Someone asked us to pose for a photograph. Filled with emotion, we scarcely noticed. In moments, in our hands was a Polaroid of the three of us behind the show lantern. We have it still. The boy is now a grown man with children of his own. The magic lantern lives on. Merry Christmas.

THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 1, 1999

By Ralph Shape, Secretary/Treasurer

Balance - November 1, 1998 -		$5,583.01
Income:		
Membership Dues:	139 @ $20.00,	$2,780.00
	1 @ $25.00	$25.00
	5 paid in 1998	
	2 checks not yet deposited	
	1 founder	
Total current membership 148		$2,805.00
1 - 2000 dues paid in advance		$20.00
Bank credit		$20.00
Membership Dues Total		$2,845.00
Bank Interest Income		$60.39
Publications Sold		$21.00
Total Income		$2,926.39
Expenses:		
Gazette:		
Setup, word process (4 issues)		$442.50
Print (4 issues) + Baloptican reprint + photos		$1,436.06
Mail (3 issues)		$437.04
Secretary/Treasurer Expenses:		
Directory: Setup, print, mail		$217.55
Postage, labels, copy, envelopes 11/1/98-10-31/99		$248.99
Misc. Expenses:		
Web Site (2 years)		$240.00
Graphics (Cederblom)		$18.22
Hotel deposit (2000 convention - Hollywood)		$500.00
Total Expenses:		$3,540.36
Balance November 1, 1999		**$4,969.04**

Held in checking account at Key Bank.

This report issued November 1, 1999 in accordance with the by-laws.

Dues for 2000 are payable January 1, 2000 and must be received by March 1, 2000.

Please include any additions, corrections or deletions for the 2000 directory. Feel free to write your own entry and we will try to accommodate.

The Gazette
Copyright 1999
A publication produced by the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Bob and Sue Hall
3321 114th Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
Hm: 253-851-8566

Officers

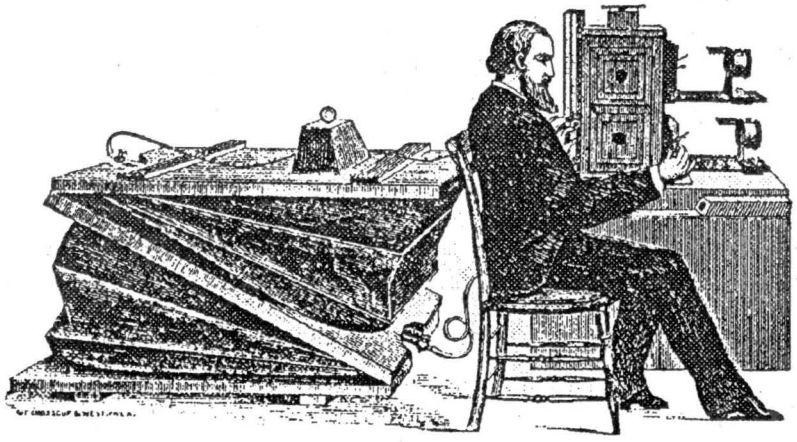
President — Bob Hall
Vice President — Homer Peabody
Secretary/Treasurer — Ralph Shape

Membership
One Years Dues
Regular member $20
Institutional Member $25
Commercial Member $25

COVER ONLY OF REPRINT REPRODUCED HERE
CONTACT THE SOCIETY OF AVAILABILITY OF ENTIRE REPRINT

THE

MAGIC LANTERN.



Vol. II No. 1
January, 1876
to
Vol. II No. 12
December, 1876

Reprinted by the Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada
as Vol. 11, No. 4
of the Magic Lantern Gazette